Ellen Fletcher Middle School

Rising 6th Grade Parent Information Night 1/17/2024 6:30 - 8:00 PM
SCHOOL SECRETARY
SUZANNE LOWE

ATTENDANCE SECRETARY
AMANDA CARRANZA

DATA SECRETARY
JOY HELSAPLE

BUDGET SECRETARY
BETH KAHALE

FRONT OFFICE STAFF
COUNSELING STAFF

Michele Chin
6th & 7th GRADE COUNSELOR (24/25)

Jovi Johnston
6th & 8th GRADE COUNSELOR (24/25)

Peggy Chang
ERMHS COUNSELOR

Dalonna Jackson
WELLNESS Associate
FRONT OFFICE SUPPORT STAFF

CHRISTINE CASTILLO
STUDENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST

QINGMIN WANG

TODD DALY
SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

ALEX BELTRAN
HEALTH TECHNICIAN
Role of the School Counselor

Develop positive, supportive relationships with students and families
- Communication is essential

Social - Emotional Support
- Fostering resiliency, healthy coping skills, and developing greater independence with increased self-advocacy
- *Confidential relationship*

Academic Support and Interventions
- Regularly meet with teaching teams, students and families

Navigation of Peer Relationships
- Adolescence is a normal period of navigating social skills

Social Kindness Program
- Promoting kindness, respect, and inclusion through targeted SEL lessons
5th to 6th Grade Transition Events

- Administration, counselors, and teachers present information to parents and families in January and February
- Middle School students, counselor and administrator present information to feeder elementary schools in March
- Counselors meet with feeder school 5th grade teachers
- 5th grade student tour of Fletcher in May
- Fletcher staff attends 504 and IEP transition meetings
What Makes Fletcher a GREAT School

- STUDENTS, STAFF, AND PARENT COMMUNITY
- SUSTAINABILITY FOR ALL THEME AND CHOICE PROGRAM
- COUNSELOR LOOPING
- SOCIAL KINDNESS/SEL PROGRAM during PRIME/Advisory
- HOMEWORK HABITAT/ DREAMCATCHERS
- STUDENT COUNCIL / STUDENT LEADERSHIP
- LUNCH CLUBS
- AFTER-SCHOOL SPORTS (City of Palo Alto)
How 6th grade is different from Elementary School

- Students have more than one teacher
- Students move from class to class
- Larger school environment – more friends and social opportunities
- Elective Wheel
- FLEX/CORE Exploratory Rotations
- Students are more independent / (e.g. brunch instead of recess)
- Lockers!
Fletcher’s “Sustainability for All” program creates opportunities for students to explore ways that they can take equitable action to promote a flourishing environment in which people and living things access healthy food, clean air, and safe water.

All students participate: core classes, awareness through leadership and broadcast course outreach, assemblies, and field trips.

Multiple avenues will be available to deepen the work during and after school.
Student Experiences

- Embedded into core classes: Science, HSS, English, Math and 6th grade Wheel.
- Topics emerge from student interest, current events, & CDE Frameworks/Standards.
- Grade Level Field Trips
OVERNIGHT OUTDOOR SCIENCE SCHOOL / CAMP

- Entire 6th grade class attends
- 3 days & 2 nights in the Marin Headlands, NatureBridge Golden Gate Campus
- Unforgettable opportunity to have a hands-on scientific exploration
- Supervised nature study and activities
Opt in/After School – Deeper Work

- Community Service opportunities – on and off campus.
- Partnerships with community groups, Gunn HS, Stanford.
- Electives will use project based approach to focus on specific areas for personal or school-wide sustainability.
A Great Start!

Tiger Camp (6th Grade)

- Transition program during first week of school
- Community-building
- Activities to familiarize teachers with students
- Opportunity to learn about Fletcher
  - Schedules, bike safety, lockers, student ID cards
  - Campus orientation and procedures
  - Introduction to library services & technology usage
  - Introduction to music and electives with wheel and music classes
**Academic Life**

**6th Grade Schedule**

- 7 class periods
- Four core subjects
- Flex period (rotating classes)
- Music & PE
- Wheel: Art, Computers, Drama, Industrial Tech, Sustainability Intro. (rotating classes)

**Home-School Connection**

- Back-to-School Night
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Parent Square
- Schoology
- PTA
6th Grade Core Curriculum
(English, Social Studies, Math, Science)

**English/Writing**
- Reading: Core novels/nonfiction text
- Reading for information
- Writing: expository, argumentative, narrative, research, literature response
- Grammar, mechanics, presentation skills, group conversations embedded

**Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)**
- Focus on Earth and Space Sciences: Astronomy, geology, meteorology, oceanography, human impact
- Scientific & Engineering
- Cross-cutting Concepts
- Core Ideas

**Social Studies**
Focuses: Dawn of humankind and major ancient civilizations of Africa and Eurasia including Mesopotamia, Egypt and Kush, Israel, India, China, and Greece
- Geographical, political, economic, religious, and social structures

**Math Common Core**
- Problem Solving
- Constructing Arguments
- Perseverance
- Focus on ratio and proportions. Transition from arithmetic to algebra
Math Course Sequence

Foundational Math
Concepts of Math
Algebra

4 years of Common Core Standards
(Math 6, Math 7, Math 8 and Algebra)
in 3 years.
Advanced students may take the math course 1 year ahead of grade-level.

Assessments will be administered on May 15 on Middle School Campuses for current students; students new to PAUSD will test in August.
6th Grade Music

Three classes available
- Band (winds & percussion)
- Orchestra (strings)
- Choir (singing)
Music, Physical Education, & Wheel

Music (Choir, Band, or Orchestra)
- Year-long classes, meeting 2x weekly

Physical Education
- Year-long classes, meeting 2x weekly

Exploratory Wheel (electives)
- Art, Computer Application, Drama, Industrial Technology, Sustainability Intro.
School counselor support

Wellness—individual counseling;

Wellness Center – M–F, Open Daily

FLEX (6th grade)—enrichment rotations

ALD program – must qualify through language testing

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)

Focus on Success – teacher/counselor referral
Transportation To and From School

- Walk, Bike, Skateboard, Scooter, Carpool
  - Helmets required
  - Suggested Routes

- Two large bike cages that are locked during the day

- Bike Registration at Welcome Back Check-In Day
Middle school students are amazing volunteers!

In partnership with our Student Council, PTA is often flush with 7th and 8th grade students supporting PTA events! And, Student Council often requests parent help for campus activities.

In January 2023, Fletcher was honored as a California and National “School to Watch”! Ms. Wallace runs the lessons and programs for our sustainability-themed school, an important part of that honor and is always looking for parent support.

Just a few ways to get involved at Fletcher:
- lunch assemblies on spirit days
- library assistance
- gardening/landscaping
- social media
- field trip chaperone

- Science Olympiad support
- engineering advisors
- yearbook photographer

Click HERE to learn more!
FRI: April 19th
- Ice Cream Social & School Tours

SUN: August 11th
- PTA Parent Led Safe-Routes to School Bike Tours
Infinite Campus: This Spring, when you fill out your Infinite Campus registration, be sure to click the box “YES! I want to receive PTA Communications”. Otherwise, you will miss out on the back to school packet and important Fletcher PTA events!
All questions are Good Questions – We are here to help!

Contact Information

Melissa Howell, Principal Admin (mhowell@pausd.org)
Jane Jung, Asst. Principal (jjung@pausd.org)
Kevin Rouse, 6th Grade Admin TOSA (krouse@pausd.org)
Michele Chin, Counselor (mchin@pausd.org)
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